

# **IMPORTANT VOTER INFORMATION: MUST REMAIN ON DISPLAY DURING POLLING HOURS**

## **WHAT EVERY VOTER SHOULD KNOW November 7, 2006 General Election**

The November 7 general election will elect candidates to fill the partisan offices and the nonpartisan offices appearing on the ballot. Five state proposals also appear on the ballot; local proposals may appear on the ballot in certain jurisdictions.

### **POLLING HOURS**

The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. Qualified voters standing in line at 8:00 p.m. will be permitted to vote.

### **VOTING INSTRUCTIONS**

To vote the partisan section of the ballot, you may cast a “straight ticket,” a “split ticket” or a “mixed ticket.”

***Straight Ticket:*** Vote the party of your choice. Nothing further needs to be done in the partisan section.

***Split Ticket:*** You may vote a straight ticket AND vote for individual candidates of your choice.

***Mixed Ticket:*** Vote for the individual candidates of your choice in each office.

The nonpartisan section of the ballot must be voted by casting individual votes for the candidates of your choice. The proposals must be voted by casting a “Yes” vote or a “No” vote on each question.

When voting the partisan and nonpartisan sections of the ballot, do not cast a vote for more candidates than are indicated under the office title.

***Write-in Votes:*** Instructions for casting a write-in vote are available. If you have a question on the procedure for casting a write-in vote, ask the election workers for assistance.

***Ballot Secrecy:*** Place the ballot in the secrecy sleeve to conceal your votes before leaving the voting station; the numbered stub on the ballot must remain visible.

***Voters Requiring Assistance:*** Special accommodations are available for voters who are disabled.

If you require voting assistance, ask the election workers for help; a reason for the needed assistance does not have to be stated. Two inspectors will assist you in the voting station.

An elector who is blind, disabled or unable to read or write may be assisted with his or her ballot by any person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or an officer or agent of a union to which the voter belongs.

A specially equipped voting station is available for use by voters who are disabled. The voting station permits voters who are disabled to vote independently without the assistance of another person.

***Spoiled Ballots:*** If you spoil your ballot, you may obtain a new ballot from the election workers.

***Important:*** Persons must not intimidate, threaten or coerce any other person for registering or voting; for urging or aiding persons in registering or voting; for purposes of interfering or influencing how a person chooses to vote or not vote; or for purposes of preventing a person from voting.

Election officials must not fail or refuse to permit a person to vote who is entitled to vote and must not refuse to tabulate, count and report such person's vote.

## **VOTERS WHO HAVE MOVED**

If you are registered and 1) moved to a different precinct within the same city or township and 2) failed to change your registration address prior to the registration deadline for today's election, you are eligible to vote in today's election in the precinct where you formerly lived. You will be asked to submit an address change form before you are issued a ballot.

If you moved to a different city or township less than 60 days prior to today's election and failed to register to vote in your new city or township of residence by the registration deadline for today's election, you are eligible to vote in today's election in the precinct where you lived in your former city or township of residence. You will be asked to submit a registration cancellation authorization form before you are issued a ballot.

If you moved to a different city or township 60 days or more prior to today's election and failed to register to vote in your new city or township of residence by the registration deadline for today's election, you are ineligible to vote in today's election.

## **PROVISIONAL BALLOTING**

A voter whose name does not appear on the registration list can vote if the voter can produce a validated voter registration receipt dated on or before the registration deadline for the election.

A voter whose name does not appear on the registration list who cannot produce a validated voter registration receipt may be eligible to vote a “provisional” ballot. In order to obtain a “provisional” ballot the voter must: 1) complete an Application to Vote form 2) complete an affidavit stating that he or she registered to vote on or before the close of registration for the election and 3) respond to questions regarding his or her identity and residence. The election workers are responsible for providing assistance with the provisional balloting process.

The answers provided by the voter to the identity and residence questions will determine if the ballot issued to the voter can be counted in the polls or must be preserved in a “provisional ballot security envelope” and returned to the clerk’s office for review after the polls close. A determination on the validity of a provisional ballot secured for later review must be rendered by the city or township clerk within six days after the election.

A voter who is issued a provisional ballot has a right to know if his or her ballot counted. If the ballot is not counted, the voter has a right to know the reason why the ballot was not counted. A notice which explains how this information can be obtained is provided to every voter who votes a provisional ballot.

### **FIRST-TIME MAIL REGISTRANTS MUST SATISFY ID REQUIREMENT**

A voter *who has never voted in Michigan* who chooses to register by mail must meet an identification requirement. To comply with the identification requirement, the voter must:

- 1) accurately enter his or her state issued driver license number or personal ID number where requested on the mail-in voter registration form; or
- 2) enter the last four digits of his or her Social Security Number where requested on the mail-in voter registration form; or
- 3) send one of the following forms of identification when mailing the mail-in voter registration form to his or her county or local clerk: a copy of any current and valid photo identification (such as a driver’s license or personal ID card) or a copy of a paycheck, government check, utility bill, bank statement or a government document which lists his or her name and address.

If a voter subject to the ID requirement does not meet the requirement as explained above, the voter must present an acceptable form of identification before voting in the first election in which he or she wishes to participate. The ID requirement does not apply if the voter personally hand delivers his or her mail registration form to the county or local clerk's office; the voter is disabled; or the voter is eligible to vote under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

A voter subject to the ID requirement who 1) has not satisfied the ID requirement prior to election day and 2) is unable to produce an acceptable form of ID in the polls has the right to vote a provisional ballot.

### **PERSONS CONFINED IN JAIL OR PRISON**

A Michigan resident confined in jail or prison who is awaiting arraignment or trial is eligible to vote. A Michigan resident who is serving a sentence in jail or prison after conviction cannot vote during his or her period of confinement. After a Michigan resident who is serving a sentence in jail or prison is released, he or she is free to participate in elections without restriction.

### **ALLEGED VOTING RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

A person who believes that an election authority has violated or will violate a provision of Title III of the Help America Vote Act (42 U.S.C. 15512) that concerns an election for federal office may invoke a formal investigation of the matter by filing a complaint with the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections, P.O. Box 20126, Lansing, Michigan 48901.

To initiate the complaint process, the person must submit a sworn statement to the Bureau of Elections which specifies the election authority who is alleged to have violated Title III, the provision of Title III involved, how the violation is alleged to have occurred and whether the complainant personally witnessed or possesses first-hand knowledge of the alleged violation. The complainant may request a hearing on the matter. If the complaint is valid and a hearing is requested, the Bureau of Elections is required to proceed with the conduct of a hearing on the record.

A copy of the complaint process can be obtained from the Bureau of Elections upon request. The complaint process can also be accessed through the Secretary of State's website [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos).

### **PROCESS FOR CHALLENGING UNQUALIFIED VOTERS**

Any registered elector present in the polling place may challenge the right of anyone attempting to vote if the elector knows or has good reason to believe that the person is not a registered elector in the precinct.

The challenge is directed to the chairperson of the precinct board. Upon

receiving a challenge, the chairperson of the precinct board is responsible for supervising the challenge.

After the challenge is made, the challenged voter is placed under oath. After the oath has been administered, the precinct chairperson or a designated election worker may question the challenged voter. Election law stipulates that the questions be confined to the individual's qualifications as a voter (citizenship, age and residency).

A challenged voter is permitted to vote a specially prepared "challenged ballot" if the answers given under oath prove that he or she is qualified to vote in the precinct. A challenged voter may *not* vote if he or she refuses to take the oath, refuses to answer appropriate questions under oath or is found to be not qualified to vote through the answers given under oath.

### **INFORMATION ON FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS THAT PROHIBIT FRAUD AND MISREPRESENTATION**

If you witness efforts to commit any kind of fraud or corruption in the voting process, you may report this to the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections at 1-800-292-5973.

If you witness actual or attempted acts of discrimination or intimidation in the voting process, you may report this to the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice at 1-800-253-3931.

***Federal Prohibitions:*** The following lists the principal prohibitions provided under federal law which protect the elections system against fraud and misrepresentation:

- Persons must not make any false statement or claim that they are citizens of the United States in order to register or vote in any Federal, State, or local election.
- Persons must not vote more than once in any election. (This does not include voting a replacement ballot after a spoiled ballot was invalidated.)
- Persons must not procure or submit materially false, fraudulent or fictitious voter registration applications.
- Persons must not submit false information as to name, address or period of residence in a voting district for the purpose of establishing eligibility to register or vote.
- Persons must not procure, cast or tabulate materially false, fraudulent or fictitious ballots.
- Persons must not pay, offer to pay or accept payment for voting, registering to vote, withholding their vote, or voting for or against any candidate.

***State Prohibitions:*** The following lists the principal prohibitions provided under state law which protect the elections system against fraud and misrepresentation:

- Persons must not falsely impersonate another person or vote or attempt to vote under the name of another person.
- Persons must not assume a false or fictitious name to vote.
- Persons who are not qualified to vote must not willfully offer to vote.
- Persons must not offer to vote or attempt to vote more than once at the same election.
- Persons must not attempt by means of bribery, menace, or other corrupt means to influence a voter in giving his or her vote or to deter the voter from giving his or her vote.
- Persons present while an absent voter is voting an absent voter ballot must not attempt to influence the absent voter on how he or she should vote.
- Persons may not accept payment for voting or refraining from voting.
- Persons may not pay or promise to pay another person for voting, for refraining from voting or to influence how the person votes.
- Persons who may be in lawful possession of a *signed* absentee ballot application are limited to 1) the applicant 2) a member of the applicant's immediate family 3) a person residing in the applicant's household 4) a person whose job normally includes the handling of mail (but only during the course of his or her employment) 5) a registered elector asked to handle the application by the applicant and 6) an authorized election official. A registered elector who returns an absentee ballot application at the request of the applicant must sign a certificate printed on the application form for such persons.
- Persons who may return an absentee ballot are limited to 1) the voter 2) a member of the voter's immediate family who has been asked to return the ballot 3) a person residing in the voter's household who has been asked to return the ballot 4) a person whose job normally includes the handling of mail (but only during the course of his or her employment) and 5) an authorized election official. With these restrictions, an absentee voter is *not* permitted to ask another voter who is not a member of the voter's immediate family or household to return his or her absentee ballot.

***If you have any questions, ask the election workers for assistance!***

*Michigan Department of State  
Bureau of Elections*